

LAVERTON HOSPITAL — UPGRADE

571. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Mayor of Kalgoorlie's comments in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* on 14 July regarding the Laverton Hospital that there is now an urgency for good medical facilities and it is imperative that the old and tired hospital be replaced. Given the government has reconsidered on community resource centre funding, will the minister immediately reverse his decision to cut funding allocated to the Laverton Hospital and provide improved health services to this deserving community?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

It is a good question. The member will recall that we discussed this around the time of the budget when we were engaged full throttle in budget repair and trying to set the state's finances back on track. We expressed a strong desire to meet the needs of the Laverton community through repairs and indeed reconstruction of the Laverton Hospital. That remains our position. We are keen to make sure that that hospital has a long future to serve the Laverton community, but it is sub-par and it is a priority. I am continuing to work with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to all our programs associated with construction across regional Western Australia. This is not a responsibility of hers; it is a responsibility of mine. I understand that we have an obligation to that community to make sure it has a hospital that it can be proud of. It served the community really well. It has been there for many years, but it is below community expectations and we are doing everything we can to find the resources to make sure we improve things.